



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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March 14, 2011

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H. *JEF*
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON DAIICHI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT INCIDENT

This is to inform you of recent developments related to the Japanese nuclear reactor incident and steps the Department is taking to monitor the potential implications of this incident on Los Angeles. Reports from federal and State agencies indicate there are three active units at the Daiichi plant that have sustained damage to the cooling systems. Explosions due to a build-up of hydrogen gas have occurred at two of the units and have damaged the outer buildings. The extent to which the primary nuclear containment structures may have been compromised by either the failed cooling systems or the explosions is uncertain.

Should a major release of radiation occur at the Daiichi reactors, we would expect significant local affects in Japan; however, atmospheric modeling by federal agencies suggest that Hawaii, Alaska, and the U.S. West Coast would not experience any harmful levels of radioactivity. Experts from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) are in Japan advising local authorities, and monitoring the situation. DOE and other federal agencies are distributing updates as conditions in Japan develop.

We will continue to remain in close contact with our federal and State partners. We will keep you and public safety agencies informed of developments as they occur. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

JEF:ab

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors